

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 31, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicant hereby amends claim 1, 7, 10 and 24. Claims 3 and 21-22 have previously been canceled, and claims 9 and 12-20 have previously been withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11 and 23-24 are pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-11, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,404,479 to Zhang et al. (hereinafter “Zhang”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,862,050 to Rho et al. (hereinafter “Rho”).

With regard to claim 1, as amended, Applicants respectfully submit that none of cited references teaches or suggests each feature of claim 1. Claim 1 IS allowable over the cited references at least in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements, for example, “a passivation layer on the thin film transistor and over the gate insulating layer, the pixel electrode selectively covering the passivation layer” and “wherein the passivation layer is removed in the seal pattern region such that the seal pattern is formed directly on the gate insulating layer” are not disclosed by the cited references. In claim 1, because the pixel electrode selectively covers the passivation layer, the pixel electrode is disposed on the passivation layer. Also, the passivation layer is removed in the seal pattern region such that the seal pattern is formed directly on the gate insulating layer. In FIG. 5 of Zhang, the layer under the seal pattern (104) and on the pixel electrode is identified as the passivation layer of claim 1. However, the layer, that corresponds to the passivation layer of claim 1, is not removed. Thus, the seal pattern is formed directly on the passivation layer, not the gate insulating layer. Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-6 that depend from claim 1, are allowable.

For similar reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit none of the cited reference discloses the above features of claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 23, and 24.

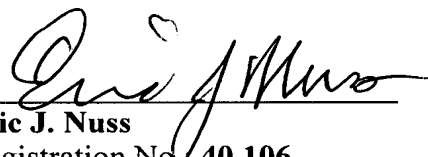
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and discussion place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: **30 August 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

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